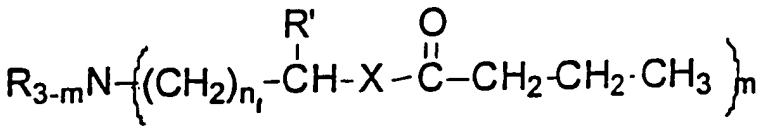
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of the structure



I

wherein n_1 is 1 to 5; m is 1 to 3;

X is O or NH;

R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a straight-chain aliphatic group, a branched-chain aliphatic group and an alicyclic group; and

R' is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl and ethyl;

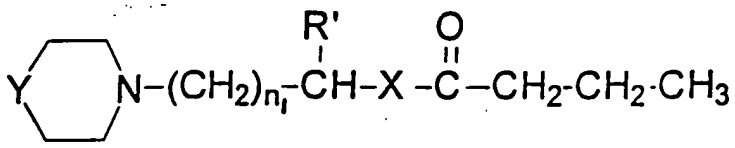
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The compound of claim 1, which is 2,2',2''-nitrilotrisethyl trisbutyrate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

4. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3, wherein said compound is is 2,2',2''-nitrilotrisethyl trisbutyrate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. The compound of the structure



II

wherein n_1 is 1-5;

X is O or NH;

Y is CH_2, O, S, or NR;

wherein R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a straight-chain aliphatic group, a branched-chain aliphatic group and an alicyclic group; and

R' is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl and ethyl;

wherein when X is O and Y is O, n_1 is not 1;

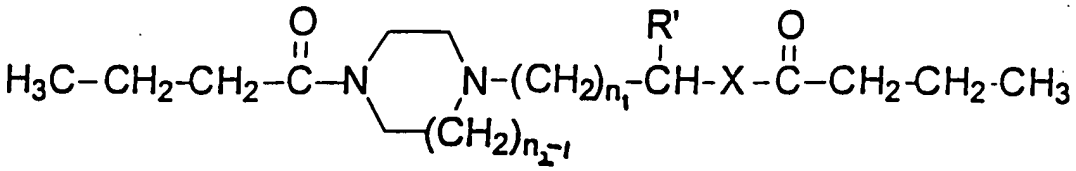
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. The compound of claim 5, which is 2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl butanamide.

7. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound of claim 5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

8. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 7, wherein said compound is 2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl butanamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. The compound of the structure



III

wherein n_1 is 1 to 5; n_2 is 1 to 4;

R' is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl and ethyl; and

X is O or NH;

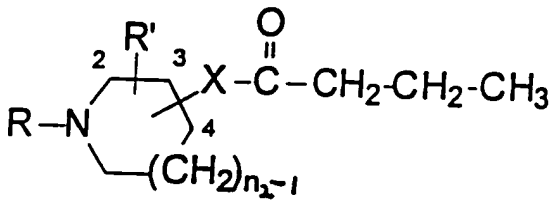
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. The compound of claim 9, which is 2-(4-butanoylpiperazinyl)ethyl butanoate.

11. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound of claim 9 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

12. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 11, wherein said compound is 2-(4-butanoylpiperazinyl)ethyl butanoate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. The compound of structure



IV

wherein n_2 is 1 to 4;

X is O or NH;

R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a straight-chain aliphatic group, a branched-chain aliphatic group and an alicyclic group; and

R' is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl and ethyl;

wherein X and R' are independently optionally substituted at C2, C3 or C4;

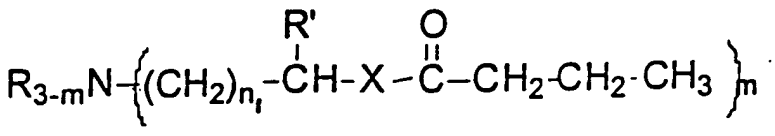
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. The compound of claim 13, which is 1-methyl-4-piperidinyl butanoate.

15. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound of claim 13 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

16. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15, wherein said compound is 1-methyl-4-piperidinyl butanoate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

17. A method of inactivating antigen-specific T cells in an individual in need of such treatment, comprising the step of administering to said individual an effective amount of a compound of structure



I

wherein n_1 is 1 to 5; m is 1 to 3;

X is O or NH;

R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a straight-chain aliphatic group, a branched-chain aliphatic group and an alicyclic group; and

R' is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl and ethyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said compound is 2,2',2''-nitrilotrisethyl trisbutyrate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

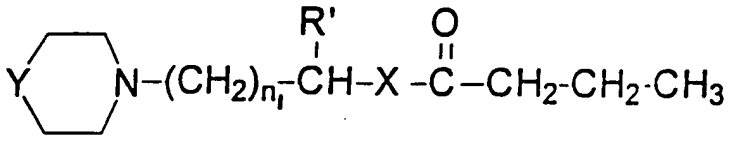
19. The method of claim 17, wherein inactivation of antigen-specific T cells is useful in the prophylaxis or therapeutic treatment of autoimmune diseases, disorders involving an autoimmune component or neoplastic diseases.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said autoimmune diseases are selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, diabetes, and multiple sclerosis.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein said disorders involving an autoimmune component are selected from the group consisting of allograft transplantation rejection and xenograft transplantion rejection.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein said neoplastic disease is selected from the group consisting of renal cancer, ovarian cancer, lung cancer, glioma and leukemia.

23. A method of inactivating antigen-specific T cells in an individual in need of such treatment, comprising the step of administering to said individual an effective amount of a compound of structure



II

wherein n_1 is 1-5;

X is O or NH;

Y is CH2, O, S, or NR;

wherein R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a straight-chain aliphatic group, a branched-chain aliphatic group and an alicyclic group; and

R' is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl and ethyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein said compound is 2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl butanamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein said compound is 2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl butanoate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

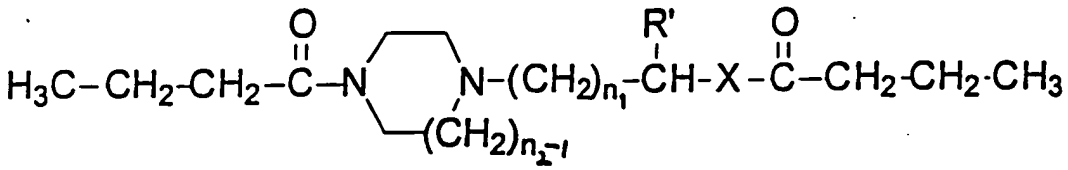
26. The method of claim 23, wherein inactivation of antigen-specific T cells is useful in the prophylaxis or therapeutic treatment of autoimmune diseases, disorders involving an autoimmune component or neoplastic diseases.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein said autoimmune diseases are selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, diabetes, and multiple sclerosis.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein said disorders involving an autoimmune component are selected from the group consisting of allograft transplantation rejection and xenograft transplantion rejection.

29. The method of claim 26, wherein said neoplastic disease is selected from the group consisting of renal cancer, ovarian cancer, lung cancer, glioma and leukemia.

30. A method of inactivating antigen-specific T cells in an individual in need of such treatment, comprising the step of administering to said individual an effective amount of a compound of structure



III

wherein n_1 is 1 to 5; n_2 is 1 to 4;

X is O or NH; and

R' is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl and ethyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein said compound is 2-(4-butanoylpiperazinyl)ethyl butanoate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

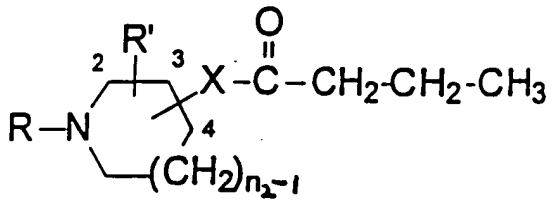
32. The method of claim 30, wherein inactivation of antigen-specific T cells is useful in the prophylaxis or therapeutic treatment of autoimmune diseases, disorders involving an autoimmune component or neoplastic diseases.

33. The method of claim 30, wherein said autoimmune diseases are selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, diabetes, and multiple sclerosis.

34. The method of claim 30, wherein said disorders involving an autoimmune component are selected from the group consisting of allograft transplantation rejection and xenograft transplantion rejection.

35. The method of claim 30, wherein said neoplastic disease is selected from the group consisting of renal cancer, ovarian cancer, lung cancer, glioma and leukemia.

36. A method of inactivating antigen-specific T cells in an individual in need of such treatment, comprising the step of administering to said individual an effective amount of a compound of structure



IV

wherein n_2 is 1 to 4;

X is O or NH;

R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a straight-chain aliphatic group, a branched-chain aliphatic group and an alicyclic group;

R' is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl and ethyl; wherein X and R' are independently optionally substituted at positions 2, 3, or 4 of the ring structure; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein said compound is 1-methyl-4-piperidinyl butanoate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

38. The method of claim 36, wherein inactivation of antigen-specific T cells is useful in the prophylaxis or therapeutic treatment of autoimmune diseases, disorders involving an autoimmune component or neoplastic diseases.

39. The method of claim 36, wherein said autoimmune diseases are selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, diabetes, and multiple sclerosis.

40. The method of claim 36, wherein said disorders involving an autoimmune component are selected from the group consisting of allograft transplantation rejection and xenograft transplantion rejection.

41. The method of claim 36, wherein said neoplastic disease is selected from the group consisting of of renal cancer, ovarian cancer, lung cancer, glioma and leukemia.